

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 5, 2002**

Secretary Albert Godfrey, Sr. called the Fire Commission to order at 1:12 pm at the Maine Emergency Medical Services conference room, 156 Edison Drive, Augusta, Maine in the absence of Chair O’Gara and Vice Chair Fournier. Members present were Michael Albert, Jack Berry, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, John Cannon, John Dean, Al Godfrey Sr., Geoffrey Maker, Harty Norris, Chief Jethro Pease, David Wacker, Steve Willis and Susan Pinette (staff). Members absent were Jay Bradshaw, Rep. Thomas Bull, Rep. Robert Duplessie, Chief Darrel Fournier, Edward Johnston, Randy Keep, Senator William O’Gara, Rep. Michael Quint, Senator Christine Savage and Bill Williams. Earle Welch, Jr., Assistant Fire Chief of the Wayne Fire Department, attended today’s meeting as guest of the Fire Commission.

In the absence of a quorum, the Fire Commission members agreed to continue the meeting as discussion only. The minutes from June 6th were distributed and no changes were noted. The Fire Commission did not meet in July; therefore there were no minutes for July.

OLD BUSINESS

The Fire Commission agreed to discuss agenda items proposed by Chair O’Gara. The first item was the suggestion to send a fruit basket/flowers to Commission member Randy Keep who has been absent due to a recent illness. Commission members were also updated on Randy Keep’s health and were told that Randy is very optimistic about returning for the Fire Commission’s October meeting.

Members were updated on the progress of the Training Facilities subcommittee. The Training Facilities survey, along with a one-page survey from the Maine Fire Chiefs, has been mailed to 777 Maine fire departments and EMS providers. The Fire Chiefs contributed \$500.00 for postage. The Training Facilities subcommittee expects to follow up on the surveys that have not been returned and to begin to incorporate the results into the Fire Commission’s existing database, including the results of the Fire Chiefs survey. The subcommittee has scheduled meetings on September 9th, September 23rd and October 7th. All meetings will start at 10:00 am and be held in the MEMS conference room. The subcommittee hopes to present a draft report at the Fire Commission’s November meeting.

Fire Commission members discussed the problem of linking to the Fire Commission’s website. It was determined to be a problem with an individual server and not the Fire Commission’s website.

John Cannon joined the meeting and a quorum was now present.

The Fire Commission was apprised of the current state budget problems and the effects on the State Fire Marshal’s Office. The SFMO is facing a \$750,000 shortfall and no general fund money will be available. The SFMO will need to look at all options to reduce the shortfall including adjusting fees. Members discussed the 2003 legislative session, the need to be aggressive for fire service needs, asking candidates prior to the

election if they support the fire service, the new members of the legislature and the committees, and the challenges facing the fire services in the future.

A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by Harty Norris, to accept the minutes of June 6, 2002. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Jack Berry, seconded by Harty Norris, to send a fruit basket to Fire Commission member Randy Keep. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission next discussed the Commission's "Best Practices Award". A draft certificate was distributed for members' comments and suggestions. Members agreed to nominate the Portland Fire Department for their Candidate Physical Ability Tests (CPAT) program that was conducted in July 2002. Members further agreed to have a nomination form on the Fire Commission's website so potential recipients could be nominated as best practices occur around the state. The Fire Commission would then vote on the submitted nominations. Fire Commission members could also make nominations.

A motion by Steve Willis, seconded by John Dean, for the Fire Commission to establish a "Best Practices" nomination and award program. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Jack Berry, seconded by Steve Willis, to recognize the Portland Fire Department and Local 740, IAFF, for implementing the Candidate Physical Ability Tests (CPAT) developed by the International Association of FireFighters (IAFF) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and to receive the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission's first "Best Practices" Award. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (John Cannon).

The Fire Commission discussed the loss of the \$15,000 for the Health Care study. The money was taken from the Fire Commission's account because there was not a signed contract. Members discussed possible alternatives including grants, joint ventures with other states and organizations and cost-sharing options. Members also discussed the RFP process and the necessity to resubmit an RFP, the potential costs of a health care study that may actually be \$60,000- \$70,000, the need to go to the Legislature for funding, seeking partnerships and working together on both the Health Care and Recruitment/Retention studies.

A motion by Jack Berry, seconded by Jeff Maker, to authorize John Cannon on behalf of the Fire Commission to seek alternative funding options for the Health Care study. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission thanked all who contributed to the passage of the June bond questions. Members were told that the issue received positive national exposure.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Commission members were informed of the completion of the updated and reorganized version of the "Red Book" or Laws of the Fire Service. The statutes are now available in full text and on the Fire Commission's website. There is a direct link with the Secretary of State's Office and the laws will be updated in real time. CDs and hardcopies will also be available.

Fire Commission members also received a report on the state's new ATM broadcast system. Presently there are 50 sites statewide with additional sites planned. The SFMO will be using the ATM system for some of its training needs.

Commission members were updated on the Portland Fire Department's Candidate Physical Ability Tests (CPAT) program held in July 2002. A total of 130 candidates attempted the tests and approximately 80% passed. Makeup tests were offered. The CPAT program received good media exposure.

The Fire Commission learned that Bill Collins, an active fire fighter from South Portland, is a candidate for the Maine House of Representatives in November.

The Fire Commission was informed that the Maine Attorney General's Office is drafting a state building code for the 2003 legislative session. There is the potential for conflict with contractors and codes enforcers who may want one version and the SFMO and the Commission members who support the NFPA 5000. Members discussed the changes anticipated in the legislature and the need to inform and educate the new members as early as possible.

The summer 2002 edition of the Maine Fire Training and Education brochure "Statewide Edition" was distributed to Commission members.

The Fire Commission agreed on the schedule for its next two meetings. The Commission will meet at 1:00pm on Monday, September 9th and Monday, October 7th.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette (staff)